DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK - Sept. 10, 2013

The Houston area was covered with clouds and light rain this morning, giving way to some sunshine during the afternoon. However, a few small scattered thunderstorms were in the area in the afternoon. However, most convective activity was confined to areas south and west of the Houston region. Relatively clean conditions for ozone and aerosol persisted with the easterly and southeasterly flow.

Tomorrow looks like the best day we will have to fly in the near future. Cloud cover should decrease compared with today. Some fair weather cumulus will exist. Ozone may build up to larger values than we have seen in the past few days, with afternoon ozone reaching moderate levels (Code Yellow), especially to the west and northwest of the city.

Thursday may also be a good day to fly, with the possibility of ozone building further. However, there is a chance that cirrus may enter the area by the afternoon as convection will be quite active over the Gulf. Friday may bring more coverage by cirrus, as the convection in the southern Gulf intensifies with an easterly wave off the south Texas and Mexican coast. Also by Friday or Saturday, tropical storm development in the Bay of Campeche may increase the cirrus shield even further. The National Hurricane Center is giving this region a 70% chance of tropical cyclone development over the next 5 days.